

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

\*\*\*\*\*news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## INTERIOR PUBLISHES ANGLERS' GUIDE TO SHARKS

Something new has been developed for the Atlantic sport fisherman who wonders what kind of shark he has just hauled from the water. It's the "Anglers' Guide to Sharks," published by the Department of the Interior.

The 32-page guide covers 34 major species of sharks common along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Chesapeake Bay. The booklet is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20402, at 25 cents a copy.

Only guide of its kind, the publication contains scale drawings of the shark species, a description of each, and a quick identification key based on physical characteristics.

The booklet is designed to assist marine sport and commercial fishermen, biologists, and students. Its publication is part of a special program of Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to enlist the help of marine fishermen in biological studies of the East Coast shark populations. Accurate identification is essential in the cooperative program whereby anglers tag and release sharks, keep records, and provide information on migrations.

According to the pamphlet, sharks are becoming increasingly important as sport fish. In a recent year nearly 800,000 sharks were caught between Cape Hatteras and Maine.

The booklet also provides information on the more dangerous species of sharks. It reports that in nearly 100 years there are records of only 22 unprovoked attacks by sharks north of Cape Hatteras. Nine of the attacks resulted in fatalities, and five of these were attributed to the white shark--four of them to the same shark.

Another highlight of the guide is a fold-out section which shows principal features of shark anatomy as an aid to identification.

Quantity orders of the publication may be obtained by marine sporting clubs, party boat operators, and others at a special discount of 25 percent on all orders of 100 or more copies. Orders should be sent directly to the Superintendent of Documents.

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